Concerted efforts are being made by the State Government in the region to counter the activities of the groups and misguided elements, who have been indulging in violence and extortion, etc., and to create an atmosphere of peace and normalcy. The Central Government is supplementing their efforts through various measures such as deployment of additional Central Security Forces for carrying out intensive counter insurgency operations and providing security for vulnerable installations and projects, based on threat assessments; sharing of intelligence; financial assistance for strengthening of the local Police Forces and intelligence agencies under the Police Modernization Scheme; assistance for strengthening various aspects of security apparatus and other aspects of anti-militancy operations by way of reimbursement of Security Related Expenditure; raising of additional Forces in the form of India Reserve Battalions; etc.

Government has also advised the State Governments concerned to enhance vigil along the National Highway. Some specific steps taken in this regard include regular checking at check posts; establishing mobile vehicle check-post at random timings and locations to check the vehicles plying on the NH 39; and undertaking special intelligence based operations.

Funds to Andhra Pradesh for coastal security

*400. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is upgrading the coastal security scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) the funds allocated so far and spent in Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) the demands of each State in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Government has consistently accorded highest priority to coastal security and an integrated Coastal Security Scheme with an outlay of Rs. 400 crore for non-recurring expenses and Rs. 151 crore for recurring expenses is presently under implementation. Under this Scheme, assistance is being provided to nine coastal States *viz.* Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and West Bengal, and four coastal Union Territories, *viz.* Daman and Diu, Lakshadweep, Puducherry and Andaman and Nicobar Islands, to set up 73 coastal police stations, 97 check posts, 58 outposts and 30 operational barracks as also for 204 patrol boats, 153 jeeps and 312 motorcycles for patrolling along and off the coastal belt. In addition, and in the context of 26/11, the Government is taking steps to further strengthen coastal security and, to this end, coastal State and Union Territories have carried out vulnerability/gap analysis jointly with Coast Guard to firm up their additional requirements. Action is underway to finalise the components of Phase-II of the

Coastal Security Scheme into a uniform format applicable to the needs of all the coastal States/Union Territories.

Total amount of Rs. 3267.00 lakh was approved for Andhra Pradesh under the Coastal Security Scheme for setting up 6 coastal police stations, equipped with 12 jeeps, 18 motorcycles, 12 boats of 12 Tonnes and 6 boats of 5 Tonnes, as well as lump-sum assistance at the rate of Rs. 10 lakh per coastal police station.

Out of the approved outlay of Rs. 3267.00 lakh for Andhra Pradesh, the amount of Rs. 267.00 lakh pertaining to the approved coastal police stations, vehicles and lump-sum assistance for the coastal police stations, has been released in full to the State. The remaining amount pertains to the cost of interceptor boats which are being procured centrally.

Andhra Pradesh has operationalised and constructed all six approved coastal police stations. Further, out of the 12 boats of 12 Ton and 6 boats of 5 Ton approved for Andhra Pradesh under the Scheme, a total of 7 boats (3 boats of 12 Ton and 4 boats of 5 Ton) have been delivered to the State.

———————

WRITTEN ANSWER TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Opening of trade centres in Latin American countries

2927. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether in order to capitalize on the lull in trade between the US and Latin American countries, Government proposed to open up four to five trade centres in a few Latin American countries on a permanent basis, to create awareness among investors and business people alike on Indian products;

(b) whether India and Latin American countries have potential to treble their bilateral trade from 2007-08 level of $12 billion to $36 billion by 2012-2013; and

(c) whether Government is also planning to set up help desks across India like Bangalore and Hyderabad to provide valuable information on Latin American countries?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) to (c) At present, thirteen Indian Missions are functioning in the Latin America region. Ten posts of Marketing Assistants have been provided in nine Indian missions of the said region to exclusively look after the trade related matters and to respond queries of exporters and importers interested to undertake business with Latin America and *vice-versa*.

FOCUS : LAC Programme of Government is in force envisaging incentives/promotional measures for supporting and encouraging Indian exporters and companies to boost our trade to Latin America. Details of FOCUS: LAC programme are available on website of the Department.